THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Since the various Ministries are competent to grant extension in service to officers of the Central Services under prescribed conditions, the information regarding the number of employees who have been granted extention in service during the last three years is not available in this Ministry.

Effects of Feeding the Infants with Milk other than Mother's Milk

29. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that feeding infants with milk, other than mother's milk, leads to cancer ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent the same ; and

(c) whether any incentives are proposed for encouraging the breast feeding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) There is no evidence to suggest that feeding infants with milk other than mother's milk leads to cancer.

(c) No, Sir. However, publicity is being given to encourage breast feeding through extensive health education.

Efficacy of the Cholera Vaccine

30. SHRI PRITHBI MAJHI ; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that in the seventies, the World Health Organisation had published documents questioning the efficacy of the cholera vaccine:

(b) if so, whether Compulsory Vaccination for Cholera which had been an integral feature of our public health, has been discontinued; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM); (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Compulsory vaccination of pilgrims in big fairs and festivals had been disontinued since September, 1985 on the advice of experts met under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services. Routine anticipatory cholera innoculation as a public health measure before calamities such as floods and droughts etc., was also discontinued on the advice of experts since February, 1988. However, the vaccine can be offered on demand on voluntary basis as health facilities such as hospitals and health centres. The above decision was taken as it was found that the currently available cholera vaccine has limited a efficacy. However, vaccination is done as an adjunct measure in flood affected areas in addition to other measures such as providing safe drinking water, improvement in sanitary conditions, promotion of oral rehydration therapy